

Claims

- [c1] 1.A medical device having a longitudinal axis, the device comprising a plurality of interconnected struts including:
at least one special strut having a first side with a first region of first curvature relative to the longitudinal axis and a second side with a second region of second curvature relative to the longitudinal axis, the first region opposite the second region, the first region curving in a direction opposite to the second region relative to the longitudinal axis of the device, the special strut having a radiopaque marker between the first and second regions,
one or more struts adjacent the first side of the special strut having a shape which is generally complementary to the shape of the first side, and
one or more struts adjacent the second side of the special strut having a shape which is generally complementary to the shape of the second side.
- [c2] 2.The medical device of claim 1 wherein the special strut is in a region between the ends of the medical device.
- [c3] 3.The medical device of claim 2 further comprising a cover disposed about the medical device in a region including the special strut.
- [c4] 4.The medical device of claim 3 wherein the cover extends about the circumference of the medical device.
- [c5] 5.The medical device of claim 3 wherein the cover does not cover the entirety of the medical device.
- [c6] 6.The medical device of claim 1 comprising a plurality of said special strut.
- [c7] 7.The medical device of claim 6 wherein a cover extends about the medical device in the region of each special strut.
- [c8] 8.The medical device of claim 2 wherein the special strut is located anywhere between the middle of the medical device and a position one half of the way from the middle of the medical device to an end of the medical device.
- [c9] 9.The medical device of claim 1 wherein the special strut is at one end of the

medical device.

- [c10] 10.The medical device of claim 1 comprising at least two of said special strut, wherein one of the special struts is at one end of the medical device and the other special strut is at the other end of the medical device.
- [c11] 11.The medical device of claim 1 wherein at least two struts on either side of the special strut have a curvature which is complementary to that of the special strut.
- [c12] 12.The medical device of claim 11 wherein the curvature of the struts adjacent the special strut decreases as the distance from the special strut increases.
- [c13] 13.The medical device of claim 1 wherein the radiopaque marker is in the form of a radiopaque material plated, coated or painted on the special strut.
- [c14] 14.The medical device of claim 1 wherein the radiopaque marker is in the form of a radiopaque material swaged or welded onto the special strut.
- [c15] 15.The medical device of claim 1 in the form of a stent.
- [c16] 16.A stent comprising a plurality of interconnected struts including:
at least one strut having a region with an enlarged width with a greater radiopacity than the remainder of the strut, the strut having a shape,
a first strut adjacent a first side of the strut having the region with the enlarged width, and
a second strut adjacent a second side of the strut having the region with the enlarged width,
the shapes of the first and second struts taken together complementing the shape of the strut having the region with the enlarged width.
- [c17] 17.The stent of claim 16 wherein the strut with the enlarged width is in a region between the ends of the stent.
- [c18] 18.The stent of claim 17 further comprising a cover disposed about the stent in a region including the strut with the enlarged width
- [c19] 19.The stent of claim 18 wherein the cover extends about the circumference of

the stent.

- [c20] 20.The stent of claim 17 wherein the cover does not cover the entirety of the stent.
- [c21] 21.The stent of claim 16 comprising a plurality of said strut with the enlarged width.
- [c22] 22.The stent of claim 16 wherein the strut with the enlarged width is located anywhere between the middle of the stent and a position one half of the way from the middle of the stent to an end of the stent.
- [c23] 23.The stent of claim 16 wherein the strut having the region with the enlarged width is at one end of the stent.
- [c24] 24.The stent of claim 16 wherein the region with the enlarged width is substantially circular or oval.
- [c25] 25.The stent of claim 16 in bifurcated form.
- [c26] 26.A stent in an unexpanded state comprising a plurality of interconnected struts, the struts including a central strut, a first strut on one side of the central strut and a second strut on the other side of the central strut, a portion of one side of the central strut nested within the first strut and a portion of the other side of the central strut nested within the second strut, the nested portions of the central strut being more radiopaque than the remainder of the central strut.
- [c27] 27.The stent of claim 26 wherein the central strut is not at an end of the stent.
- [c28] 28.The stent of claim 26 wherein the radiopaque portion is bulbous.
- [c29] 29.The stent of claim 26 having a plurality of the central struts, each central strut having a first strut on one side of the central strut and a second strut on the other side of the central strut, a portion of one side of the central strut nested within the first strut and a portion of the other side of the central strut nested within the second strut, the nested portions of the central strut being more radiopaque than the remainder of the central strut.

- [c30] 30.The stent of claim 26 comprising a plurality of said central strut.
- [c31] 31.The stent of claim 26 in bifurcated form.
- [c32] 32.The stent of claim 26 further comprising a cover disposed about the stent in a region of the central strut.
- [c33] 33.The stent of claim 32 wherein the cover extends circumferentially about the stent, less than the entirety of the stent covered by the cover.

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